

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NEA-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SY-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 AF-04 RSR-01

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R 251700Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9989

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7375

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SY

SUBJECT: CONTACT WITH ARAB RESISTANCE OFFICIAL

1. FONOFF OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR US INTERESTS IN SYRIA HAS SHARED WITH US TELEGRAM DATED JULY 20 FROM ITALIAN EMBASSY DAMASCUS REPORTING ON APPROACH MADE BY PURPORTED ARAB RESISTANCE PERSONAGE TO US INTERESTS OFFICER (CARDILLI). ACCORDING TO TELEGRAM, IN RECENT DAYS A CERTAIN SULEIMAN EL-FIL, DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS MEMBER OF OLP OF DAMASCUS, CALLED ON CARDILLI TO ASK WHETHER INTERESTS SECTION WAS INTERESTED IN SUBSCRIBING TO PALESTINE RESISTANCE PERIODICALS, THE PROCEEDS OF WHICH WOULD GO TO THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. CARDILLI REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH EL-FIL'S PROPOSAL MIGHT SEEM SOMEWHAT STRANGE TO AMERICAN AUTHORITIES, HE WOULD PASS IT ON.

2. EL-FIL THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, RELATIONS BETWEEN PALESTINE RESISTANCE FORCES AND THE U.S. NEED NOT REPEAT NOT NECESSARILY REMAIN STATIC AND THAT SOMETHING COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE THEM. EL-FIL REPEATED THIS POINT SEVERAL TIMES NOTING THAT SOMETHING COULD CHANGE IN THE FUTURE AND ADDING THAT A DIALOGUE OPENING SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.

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3. TELEGRAM CONTINUES THAT INVESTIGATION BY ITALIAN EMBASSY REVEALED

THAT EL-FIL IS MEMBER OF DAMASCUS RESISTANCE ORGANIZATION. HOWEVER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT WEIGHT HE HAS. ACCORDING TELEGRAM, FOREGOING HAS BEEN REPORTED US EMBASSY BEIRUT WHICH HAS SHOWN OPENESS TO EL-FIL'S OFFER AND HAS ENCOURAGED CONTACTS.

4. MESSAGE CONCLUDES WITH REQUEST TO ITALIAN FONOFF FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. FONOFF OFFICIAL, IN TURN, HAS ASKED US FOR OUR VIEWS AND INSTRUCTIONS. PLEASE ADVISE. VOLPE

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